

Approved: 4-16-14

**FINAL / Minutes of the Tree and Landscape Board
City Hall, City of College Park
March 26, 2014**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Brenda Alexander, Public Works Deputy Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steven Beavers, Planning Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Herschbach, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Krouse, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Lea-Cox, City Forester	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amelia Murdoch, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Wimer, Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CBE Liaison, Janis Oppelt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOTE: The TLB meeting of March 19 was rescheduled to March 26 due to an expected low attendance which would result in no quorum

Chairperson Wimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt the February 19, 2014 Tree and Landscape Board meeting minutes.

Moved: Mr. Krouse

Second: Mr. Beavers

Approval of the February 19, 2014 Tree and Landscape Board meeting minutes, as amended:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

II. Committee for a Better Environment (CBE)

CBE Liaison Oppelt stated that the permaculture workshop held on March 15, 2014, was very informative. The speaker, Lincoln Smith, talked about how to plant different plants so that they complement each other as well as the importance of selecting the right plants for a permaculture location, e.g., persimmons, sauber (black walnut), etc. Mr. Beavers suggested hiring Mr. Smith to view the area along the trolley trail for advice.

The CBE, along with the University of Maryland, is sponsoring a meeting of the Community Power Network on April 16, 2014, in which community members use their collective buying power to save on the total cost of installing home solar systems.

There is a line item of \$2,500 in the budget for trees and flowers, none of which has yet been used. Ms. Alexander suggested purchasing 30-50 gator bags at approximately \$18 each for new tree installations; Ms. Oppelt decided on 50 gator bags.

Ms. Oppelt is now the official CBE liaison for the TLB.

III. Planning Department

Mr. Beavers, Planning Representative, stated that the Planning Department is considering applying for a releaf grant for University Gardens Apartments, located at Rhode Island Avenue and Knox Road. The property is encroaching on the City's right of way near the trolley trail. The existing fence has been removed. There was a suggestion to plant some shrubbery or trees in that location, and Prince George's County Releaf Program will cover those costs. Ms. Alexander suggested a mixed shrub planting as a screen for the parking area.

IV. Public Works

- The landscape crews have been working in the Sunnyside neighborhood performing street tree pruning for clearance over the sidewalk and street; about 140 street trees in that neighborhood were elevated for clearance.
- Spring cleanup in the planting beds in the median at College Park Woods and Calvert Road was completed.
- Ms. Alexander and the Lead Groundskeeper attended pesticide recertification for their pesticide licenses.
- Ms. Alexander recently placed an order for street tree replacements through the Tremendous Program; 51 trees in assorted varieties were ordered.
- April is Spring Cleanup Month. The yard will be open every Saturday in April from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon to bring in trash and brush. Compost and mulch will be available for sale, and the City will be accepting electronics and molded Styrofoam for recycling. Community Forklift will be accepting donations for construction projects, tools, etc.
- Good Neighbor Day is Saturday, March 29. It is a co-operative project with the University of Maryland, the City, and residents that will be held at United Methodist Church on Rhode Island Avenue at Hollywood Road from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A light breakfast will be served, and there will be a number of activities for residents to participate in: litter pickup, an invasive plant removal, mulching and planting at Al Huda Elementary School. In addition, nonperishable food items will be collected for the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels. As a part of Good Neighborhood Day, a Sustainability Summit will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Ms. Oppelt will set up a table for distribution of CBE brochures. Residents are encouraged to register online at www.goodneighborday.umd.edu.

V. Pesticides

CBE Liaison Oppelt had questions regarding the types of pesticides used by the City which, according to Ms. Alexander, include Roundup, Snapshot, and Crabgrass Pre-emergent. Ms. Oppelt stated that Takoma Park passed a ban on the use of pesticides, and some Takoma Park representatives involved in the ban will attend the next CBE meeting in April. Ms. Oppelt suggested that the TLB produce a brochure on the use of pesticides and herbicides.

VI. M-NCPPC Airport Tree Trimming

The airport tree trimming issue was discussed at the City Council work session that was also attended by Park and Planning representatives. The representatives explained that they had to do a catastrophic trimming since they had waited 5 years since the last tree trimming. They did express an interest in communication but, according to Chairperson Wimer, may not have had the

technical knowledge and should have had a Forestry person that the TLB could communicate with. Chairperson Wimer forwarded an email to a City Council member on the topic, and it was suggested to bring it up in the next meeting with Park and Planning to ensure that there is also a Forester on hand at the airport during the next tree trimming.

Chairperson Wimer just received an email from Jack Robson, Chair of the Office of the Airport Authority, which stated that he “just received an email from the Airport Manager. They have finally gotten the tree contractor and his airport engineering contractor to agree to meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. ... to discuss the remaining work to be done for the obstruction removal/tree trimming.” All will meet at the Airport Operations Building and then drive down to the site of the tree cutting. Members of the TLB have been invited to attend; Ms. Alexander will try to attend.

VII. Arbor Day

Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 25, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Alexander suggested installing one or two trees as well as shrubbery along the trolley trail on the east side of the trail on Rhode Island Avenue and the south side of Knox Road. The yellow wood was one of the trees selected for planting; the second type of tree will be determined. Ms. Alexander will contact the Civic Association regarding their participation in Arbor Day.

VIII. Underground Power Lines

Dr. Herschbach informed the TLB that the City Council is attempting to obtain funds to place power lines underground in a 1-mile section of the reconstruction of the Route 1 Corridor. He suggested that the TLB endorse the idea and support the City’s effort on this project.

IX. Brochure for Alice Kennington Tree Fund

Ms. Alexander stated that although this is a CBE brochure, it included some outdated information; i.e., phone numbers and email addresses. CBE Liaison Oppelt will update the brochure, including the date of revision and new logo.

X. Adjournment

The TLB meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m. The next TLB meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett, Contract Secretary for the City of College Park